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ERIC JOHNSTON  
PRESIDENT

August 5, 1960

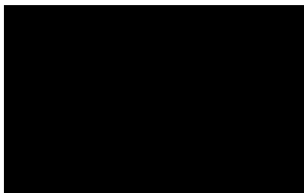
Dear Allen:

At the request of Mr. Menshikov, the Soviet Ambassador, I had luncheon with him today at the Embassy. He also had present his Minister. He obviously wished to ask a number of questions. I wanted you to see the nature of these questions. It is not necessary to tell you my replies because I am sure you know how I handled the situation. He asked questions such as --

Who is going to win the election? How would the attitude of each presidential candidate differ on the policy of foreign relations? Why were we continuing to vilify the Soviet Union in the press, radio and public speeches?

Why did Congressman Walter Judd, in his keynote speech, say that it was impossible for the United States to make an agreement with the Soviet Union until the Soviet Union dropped Communism? How would we like it if Russia said it was impossible to make an agreement with the United States until America dropped capitalism?

Didn't we know that Russia was stronger militarily than the United States in missiles, nuclear weapons, armed forces? Why couldn't we begin in the United Nations to work out our problems, such as banning nuclear tests, beginning a program of disarmament, etc.?



Answered by telephone - per DCI - 8/20/60

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Why did we have to wait until after the elections before anything could be done? Why was it necessary for the presidential candidates to run against Khrushchev?

At this point he remarked that Russia could not keep quiet if we were constantly spitting in her face. Russia was making greater progress than even she anticipated. Its seven-year program would be finished in five years, possibly four.

Why did we criticize Mr. Khrushchev or Mr. Mikoyan if they took a trip to a foreign country? The Soviet press never criticized Mr. Eisenhower when he went abroad.

Did America really want peace or did we want war? Africa was a very dangerous continent. Didn't we recognize the explosive quality of the difficulties there?

Of course, I tried to explain to him the peculiar nuances of an American presidential campaign; that statements might be made on either side which did not necessarily represent the attitude of an administration when it comes to office; that I hoped the Soviet Union would refrain from provocative words or acts in the near future if it expected to lessen tensions.

If there is anything further you wish I will be glad to give it to you.

I am off Friday, August 12th, on a month's business trip to Africa and I would like to visit with you when I return.

Sincerely yours,



The Honorable  
Allen W. Dulles  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

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